Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims of this application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A method of operating a broadband communication network, comprising:

establishing a communication flow between a network access terminal and a site using the broadband communication network; and

allocating a cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between a first account associated with a user of the network access terminal and a second account associated with an entity other than the user of the network access terminal.

2.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

allocating the cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal and the second account associated with the entity other than the user of the network access terminal based on a performance level of the communication flow.

3.   (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

allocating the cost of the communication flow between the first account and the second account based on whether the communication flow is at a base performance level or an enhanced performance level that exceeds the base performance level.

4.   (Original) The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

receiving a request from the network access terminal and/or the site to provide the communication flow at the enhanced performance level; and

providing the communication flow at the enhanced performance level.

5.   (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the cost of the communication flow comprises a base cost for providing the communication flow at a base performance level and an incremental cost, in addition to the base cost, for providing the communication flow at an enhanced performance level, and wherein allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

allocating the base cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal; and

allocating the incremental cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the second account associated with an entity other than the user of the network access terminal.

6.   (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the cost of the communication flow comprises a base cost for providing the communication flow at a base performance level and an incremental cost, in addition to the base cost, for providing the communication flow at an enhanced performance level, and wherein allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

allocating the base cost and the incremental cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal.

7.   (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the cost of the communication flow comprises a base cost for providing the communication flow at a base performance level and an incremental cost, in addition to the base cost, for providing the communication flow at an enhanced performance level, and wherein allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

allocating the base cost and the incremental cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the second account associated with an entity other than the user of the network access terminal.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 3 4, further comprising:

using an authentication mechanism to verify that the network access terminal and/or the site is authorized to modify the performance level of the broadband communication network and/or allocation of the cost of the communication flow.

9.   (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the request is a first request, the method further comprising:

receiving a second request from the network access terminal and/or the site to provide the communication flow at the base performance level; and wherein allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

allocating the cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal and the second account associated with at the entity other than the user of the network access terminal based on the performance level of the communication flow if the network access terminal and/or the site is authorized to modify the performance level of the broadband communication network and/or allocation of the cost of the communication flow.

10.   (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the performance level is based on at least one of bandwidth of the communication flow, duration of the communication flow, latency associated with the communication flow, jitter associated with the communication flow, dropped packets associated with the communication flow, quality of service (QoS) associated with the communication flow, rate limit associated with the communication flow, traffic shaping associated with the communication flow, and priority of the communication flow.

11.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the entity is associated with the site.

12.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the entity is associated with a third party that is not associated with the site.

13.   (Original) A point of presence system, comprising:

a broadband access node that is configured to establish a communication flow between a network access terminal and a site using a broadband communication network; and

a billing system that is configured to allocate a cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between a first account associated with a user of the network access terminal and a second account associated with an entity other than the user of the network access terminal.

14. (Original) The point of presence system of Claim 13, further comprising:

a performance control system that is configured to adjust a performance level of the communication flow; and

wherein the billing system is further configured to allocate the cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal and the second account associated with the entity other than the user of the network access terminal based on the performance level.

15. (Original) The point of presence system of Claim 14, wherein the communication flow is operable at a base performance level and an enhanced performance level that exceeds the base performance level.

16. (Original) The point of presence system of Claim 14, wherein the performance level is based on at least one of bandwidth of the communication flow, duration of the communication flow, latency associated with the communication flow, jitter associated with the communication flow, dropped packets associated with the communication flow, quality of service (QoS) associated with the communication flow, rate limit associated with the communication flow, traffic shaping associated with the communication flow, and priority of the communication flow.

17. (Original) A system for operating a broadband communication network, comprising:

means for establishing a communication flow between a network access terminal and a site using the broadband communication network; and

means for allocating a cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between a first account associated with a user of the network access

terminal and a second account associated with an entity other than the user of the network access terminal.

18.   (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the means for allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

means for allocating the cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal and the second account associated with the entity other than the user of the network access terminal based on a performance level of the communication flow.

19.   (Original) The system of Claim 18, wherein the means for allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

means for allocating the cost of the communication flow between the first account and the second account based on whether the communication flow is at a base performance level or an enhanced performance level that exceeds the base performance level.

20.   (Original) The system of Claim 19, further comprising:

means for receiving a request from the network access terminal and/or the site to provide the communication flow at the enhanced performance level; and

means for providing the communication flow at the enhanced performance level.

21.   (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the cost of the communication flow comprises a base cost for providing the communication flow at a base performance level and an incremental cost, in addition to the base cost, for providing the communication flow at an enhanced performance level, and wherein the means for allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

means for allocating the base cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal; and

means for allocating the incremental cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the second account associated with an entity other than the user of the network access terminal.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the cost of the communication flow comprises a base cost for providing the communication flow at a base performance level and an incremental cost, in addition to the base cost, for providing the communication flow at an enhanced performance level, and wherein the means for allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

means for allocating the base cost and the incremental cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the cost of the communication flow comprises a base cost for providing the communication flow at a base performance level and an incremental cost, in addition to the base cost, for providing the communication flow at an enhanced performance level, and wherein the means for allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

means for allocating the base cost and the incremental cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the second account associated with an entity other than the user of the network access terminal.

24. (Currently amended) The system of Claim ~~19~~ 20, further comprising:

means for using an authentication mechanism to verify that the network access terminal and/or the site is authorized to modify the performance level of the broadband communication network and/or allocation of the cost of the communication flow.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 24, wherein the request is a first request, the system further comprising:

means for receiving a second request from the network access terminal and/or the site to provide the communication flow at the base performance level; and wherein the means for allocating the cost of the communication flow comprises:

means for allocating the cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal and the second account associated with at the entity other than the user of the network access terminal based on the performance level of the communication flow if the network access terminal and/or the site is authorized to modify the performance level of the broadband communication network and/or allocation of the cost of the communication flow.

26.   (Original) The system of Claim 18, wherein the performance level is based on at least one of bandwidth of the communication flow, duration of the communication flow, latency associated with the communication flow, jitter associated with the communication flow, dropped packets associated with the communication flow, quality of service (QoS) associated with the communication flow, rate limit associated with the communication flow, traffic shaping associated with the communication flow, and priority of the communication flow.

27.   (Original) The system of Claim 17 wherein the entity is associated with the site.

28.   (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the entity is associated with a third party that is not associated with the site.

29.   (Original) A computer program product for operating a broadband communication network, comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to establish a communication flow between a network access terminal and a site using the broadband communication network; and

computer readable program code configured to allocate a cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between a first account associated with a user

of the network access terminal and a second account associated with an entity other than the user of the network access terminal.

30.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the computer readable program code configured to allocate the cost of the communication flow comprises:

computer readable program code configured to allocate the cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal and the second account associated with the entity other than the user of the network access terminal based on a performance level of the communication flow.

31.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 30, wherein the computer readable program code configured to allocate the cost of the communication flow comprises:

computer readable program code configured to allocate the cost of the communication flow between the first account and the second account based on whether the communication flow is at a base performance level or an enhanced performance level that exceeds the base performance level.

32.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 31, further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request from the network access terminal and/or the site to provide the communication flow at the enhanced performance level; and

computer readable program code configured to provide the communication flow at the enhanced performance level.

33.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 32, wherein the cost of the communication flow comprises a base cost for providing the communication flow at a base performance level and an incremental cost, in addition to the base cost, for providing the communication flow at an enhanced performance level, and wherein the computer readable program code configured to allocate the cost of the communication flow comprises:

computer readable program code configured to allocate the base cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal; and

computer readable program code configured to allocate the incremental cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the second account associated with an entity other than the user of the network access terminal.

34.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 32, wherein the cost of the communication flow comprises a base cost for providing the communication flow at a base performance level and an incremental cost, in addition to the base cost, for providing the communication flow at an enhanced performance level, and wherein the computer readable program code configured to allocate the cost of the communication flow comprises:

computer readable program code configured to allocate the base cost and the incremental cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal.

35.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 32, wherein the cost of the communication flow comprises a base cost for providing the communication flow at a base performance level and an incremental cost, in addition to the base cost, for providing the communication flow at an enhanced performance level, and wherein the computer readable program code configured to allocate the cost of the communication flow comprises:

computer readable program code configured to allocate the base cost and the incremental cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site to the second account associated with an entity other than the user of the network access terminal.

36.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim ~~31~~ 32, further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to use an authentication mechanism to verify that the network access terminal and/or the site is authorized to modify the performance level of the broadband communication network and/or allocation of the cost of the communication flow.

37.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 36, wherein the request is a first request, the computer program product further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a second request from the network access terminal and/or the site to provide the communication flow at the base performance level; and wherein computer readable program code configured to allocate the cost of the communication flow comprises:

computer readable program code configured to allocate the cost of the communication flow between the network access terminal and the site between the first account associated with the user of the network access terminal and the second account associated with at the entity other than the user of the network access terminal based on the performance level of the communication flow if the network access terminal and/or the site is authorized to modify the performance level of the broadband communication network and/or allocation of the cost of the communication flow.

38.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 30, wherein the performance level is based on at least one of bandwidth of the communication flow, duration of the communication flow, latency associated with the communication flow, jitter associated with the communication flow, dropped packets associated with the communication flow, quality of service (QoS) associated with the communication flow, rate limit associated with the communication flow, traffic shaping associated with the communication flow, and priority of the communication flow.

39.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 29 wherein the entity is associated with the site.

40.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the entity is associated with a third party that is not associated with the site.